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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER

GOODWIN, JEANNE M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2841

DATE MAILED: 03/14/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

PL

Office Action Summary	Application No.		Applicant(s)	
	09/757,939		WILLIAMS, JOSEPH F.	
	Examiner		Art Unit	
	Jeanne-Marguerite Goodwin		2841	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 December 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-67 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 12-65 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11, 66 and 67 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____. 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____. |
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DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

2. Claims 1, 4-11, 66 and 67 are finally rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by US Patent 6,366,834 to Hayes et al. [hereinafter Hayes].

With respect to claim 1: Hayes a device (see Fig. 1) comprising a timezone database structure (see Figs. 4 and 8) having at least one timezone identifier (the number of timezones to which a state belongs, e.g., North Dakota has 2 timezones), at least one local shift time associated with each timezone identifier (difference in time in each timezone = -7 hours/-6 hours) and an anchor shift time associated with each local shift time (Greenwich standard time),

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wherein said at least one local shift time and said anchor shift time are used for conversion of times.

With respect to claims 4 and 5: Hayes' database structure (see Figs. 4 and 8) further indicates a timezone associated with a timezone identifier (California = 1 and Arizona = 1) of the at least one timezone identifier is non-observing and observing, e.g., California daylight savings is not being enforced or Arizona daylight savings is being enforced (see column 4, lines 32-48).

With respect to claim 6: Hayes' database structure (see Figs. 4 and 8) further indicates a second timezone identifier (North Dakota = 2) of the at least one timezone identifier is non-observing, e.g., North Dakota daylight savings is not being enforced (see column 4, lines 34-39).

With respect to claim 7: Hayes' database structure (see Figs. 4 and 8) further indicates a first local shift time (difference in time in each timezone = -7 hours/-6 hours) associated with a first timezone identifier (North Dakota has 2 timezones) of the at least one timezone identifier is relative to a reference date-time (summer time or winter time) (see column 6, lines 53-67).

With respect to claim 8: Hayes' database structure is inherently able to indicate the first local shift time (difference in time in each timezone = -7 hours/-6 hours) being after the reference date-time because the local shift time may be identified prior to a reference date-time (summer time or winter time change).

With respect to claim 9: Hayes' database structure is inherently able to indicate the first local shift time (difference in time in each timezone = -7 hours/-6 hours) being before the reference date-time because the local shift time may be identified prior to a reference date-time (summer time or winter time change).

With respect to claim 10: Hayes' database structure is inherently able to indicate

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a second local shift time (difference in time in each timezone = -7 hours/-6 hours) associated with the first timezone identifier (North Dakota has 2 timezones) is relative to the reference date-time (summer time or winter time), and wherein the second local shift time is after the reference date-time (summer time or winter time).

With respect to claim 11: Hayes' database structure (see Fig. 4) further indicates the at least one local shift time and the anchor shift time are expressed in an integer format.

With respect to claim 66: Hayes a device (see Fig. 1) comprising a timezone database structure (see Figs. 4 and 8) with a set of instructions having at least one timezone identifier (the number of timezones to which a state belongs, e.g., North Dakota has 2 timezones), at least one local shift time associated with each timezone identifier (difference in time in each timezone = -7 hours/-6 hours) and an anchor shift time associated with each local shift time (Greenwich standard time), wherein said at least one local shift time and said anchor shift time are used for conversion of times.

With respect to claim 67: Hayes' database structure (see Fig. 4) further indicates the at least one local shift time and the anchor shift time are expressed in an integer format.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

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4. Claims 2 and 3 are finally rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hayes.

Hayes discloses a device as stated above with regards to claims 1, 4-11, 66 and 67. Hayes discloses all the subject matter claimed by applicant with the exception of the limitation stated in claim 2, i.e., the local shift times associated with a given timezone identifier of the at least one timezone identifier are in sorted order; and the limitation stated in claim 3, i.e., the local shift times associated with a given timezone identifier of the at least one timezone identifier are in unsorted order.

With respect to claims 2 and 3: Official Notice is taken with respect to the local shift times associated with a given timezone identifier of the at least one timezone identifier being in a sorted or unsorted order since it is very well known in the database art to sort data in a file database, e.g., excel, as a way of classifying or unclassifying data, respectively. Thus to place Hayes' local shift times in a sorted or unsorted order would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made in order to be able to classify or unclassify data any perspective order.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments filed Dec. 14, 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

With respect to arguments stated on page 5, lines 8-10: Contrary to applicant's belief, the prior art of record (Hayes et al.) teaches a timezone database structure having at least one timezone identifier (the number of timezones to which a state belongs, e.g., North Dakota has 2

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timezone), at least one local shift time associated with each timezone identifier (difference in time in each timezone = -7 hours/-6 hours) and an anchor shift time associated with each local shift time (Greenwich standard time), wherein said at least one local shift time and said anchor shift time are used for conversion of times.

Conclusion

6. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communication from the examiner should be directed to Examiner Jeanne-Marguerite Goodwin whose telephone number is (571) 272-2104. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (9am-6pm), alternate Fridays off. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-2861.

JMG
March 3, 2006


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